Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for removing DNA contaminants in a ~~physiologically active~~ genetically recombinant protein-containing sample, which comprises the steps of:

~~1) forming the physiologically active protein-containing sample into an aqueous solution of low conductivity having a concentration of 100mM or less as well as a pH from 4.0 to equal to or lower than the isoelectric point of the physiologically active protein; and~~

1) adjusting an aqueous solution of the genetically recombinant protein-containing sample to an ionic concentration of 100mM or less and a pH of from 4.0 to the isoelectric point of the protein; and

2) removing the resulting particles.

Claims 2-3. (Cancelled)

4. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein the aqueous solution ~~of low conductivity~~ has a conductivity of 300 mS/m or less.

5. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the aqueous solution is selected from aqueous solutions of hydrochloric acid, citric acid and acetic acid.

Claims 6-7. (Cancelled)

8. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 1, wherein the impurities are viruses.

9. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim ~~7~~1, wherein the aqueous solution of ~~physiologically active~~the genetically recombinant protein-containing sample has the DNA contaminants at a DNA concentration of 22.5 pg/ml or less after the treatment for ~~of~~ removal of DNA contaminants.

10. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein the ~~physiologically active~~ genetically recombinant protein is an antibody.

11. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 10, wherein the antibody is an IgG antibody.

12. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 10, wherein the antibody is a humanized monoclonal antibody.

13. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 12, wherein the antibody is a humanized anti-IL-6 receptor antibody.

14. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 12, wherein the antibody is a humanized anti-HM1.24 antigen monoclonal antibody.

15. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 12, wherein the antibody is a humanized anti-parathyroid hormone-related peptide antibody (anti-PTHrP antibody).

16. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 1, wherein the physiologically active protein is granulocyte colony-stimulating factor.

17. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the particles are removed by filtration through a filter.

18. (Cancelled)

19. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1,

wherein the ~~physiologically active~~genetically recombinant protein is an antibody, and

wherein step 1) is accomplished by subjecting the antibody-containing sample to affinity chromatography on Protein A or G, eluting the sample with an acidic aqueous solution ~~of low conductivity~~ having ~~a~~ an ionic concentration of 100 mM or less, and adjusting the resulting eluate with a buffer to a pH of from 4.0 to ~~equal to or lower than~~ the isoelectric point of the antibody.

20. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim ~~18 or~~ 19 or 23, wherein the buffer is an aqueous solution of Tris.

21. (Withdrawn) A purified physiologically active protein obtainable by the method according to claim 1.

22. (Withdrawn) A method for manufacturing a medical protein formulation, which comprises a purification step in which the method according to claim 1 is used.

23. (New) The method according to claim 1, wherein step 1) is accomplished by forming an acidic aqueous solution of genetically recombinant protein-containing sample having an ionic concentration of 100 mM or less and a pH of 2.0 to 3.9, or an alkaline aqueous solution of the genetically recombinant protein-containing sample having an ionic concentration of 100 mM or less and a pH of 7.5 to 13, and adjusting the resulting solution with a buffer to a pH of from 4.0 to the isoelectric point of the protein.